



*Congress of the United States  
House of Representatives  
Washington, D.C. 20515*

*Anna G. Eskoo  
Fourteenth District  
California*

April 26, 2007

The Honorable Michael O. Johanns, Secretary  
U.S. Department of Agriculture  
Jamie L. Whitten Federal Building  
1400 Independence Avenue, SW  
Room 200-A  
Washington, D.C. 20250

VIA FACSIMILE: 202-720-2166

Dear Secretary Johanns,

It is my understanding that you are considering declaring an emergency pursuant to the *Plant Protection Act* in response to the recent discovery of the light brown apple moth in Northern California.

I urge you make the declaration without delay so that additional steps can be taken to eradicate this pest and avoid the economic and environmental devastation that may otherwise occur.

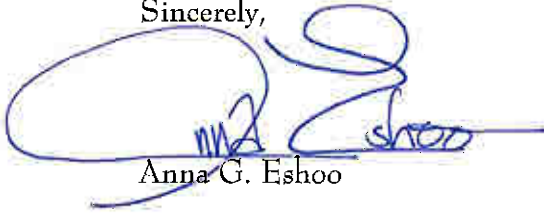
The light brown apple moth, which is native to Australia, attacks a wide range of plants and jeopardizes agricultural production in the state. Already, an estimated \$133 million in crops are at risk in the areas where the moth has been detected.

The California Department of Food and Agriculture is working to define the scope of the pest population and to eradicate it from the state. However, there is a need for the USDA to work with the state in order to prevent this pest from migrating further and to limit the damage to crops in the areas where it has been found.

USDA should provide immediate leadership and funding to ensure that California and the nation are once again free of this pest. Federal involvement will also provide confidence to other states that the steps being taken in California are providing a sufficient safeguard against the interstate transfer of the light brown apple moth.

There is a clear federal interest in stopping this pest. Delay will result in greater costs to eradicate the pest and more losses to California. Thank you for your attention to this matter.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read 'Anna G. Eshoo', with a large, stylized initial 'A' and a long horizontal flourish extending to the right.

Anna G. Eshoo